

Color Schemes

Thinking about creating a heritage scrapbook? Making an interesting page for it involves more than just layout. Your choice of colors will be a prime consideration. How often do you look for just the right color to paint a room in your home?

Colors evoke moods and feelings, so your page color scheme will have a strong influence on the “message” a viewer receives. Blues and greens, which are considered cool colors, can evoke a soothing feeling. They can also appear to retreat from the viewer, which makes them good to use for page backgrounds.

Warm colors are made up of the red shades like red, yellow, and orange. They create a sense of warmth and vibrancy to a scene. Visually, these colors appear to move toward the viewer, and to stand out from a page.

From a heritage viewpoint, neutral colors like beige, and off-white can create an old fashioned look, and so can monochromatic black and gray tones when used with old black-and-white photographs.

What many of us struggle with, though, is making sure we don't pick colors that conflict when viewed on the final page. Color schemes based on a color wheel can help guide you. A color wheel usually includes 12 distinct colors with each color having a relationship to the other (see links at the end of this article for more information). Typical color wheel schemes include:

- **Analogous:** Selecting shades and tones of three colors that are adjacent to each other on the color wheel. Analogous colors, therefore, have a common color. For example blue-violet, blue, and blue-green all have blue as a common color.
- **Complements:** Using shades of colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel, like red and green.
- **Split Complements:** Like complements, but involves one color and the two on each side of its complement.
- **Double Complement:** This uses four colors that are double pairs of complements, like yellow/violet and blue/orange.
- **Dyad:** Two colors that are two colors apart.
- **Triad:** This scheme uses three colors that are equally spaced apart on the color wheel, like red, yellow, and blue.
- **Monochromatic:** Uses one color and any shade, tint, or tone of it.

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Have fun with your color choices!

For more info:

<http://www.sherwin-williams.com/DIY/interior/colorselect/confidence/dwc4.asp>

<http://www.saumag.edu/art/studio/chalkboard/c-wheel.html>

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